

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11000 171959Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC: ITEM 10 - RESTRUCTURING

REF: A) GENEVA 10312, B) STATE 174778

1. BASIS OF PROPOSAL IN PARA 10 IS THAT ACTIONS TAKEN IN SESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF SUBJECT ORIENTED SESSION (SOS), LIKE THOSE IN SESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF EXISTING ECOSOC MEETINGS, OF G.A., ETC., ARE MERELY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PLENARY, WHICH ALONE CAN TAKE DECISIONS. PLENARY WOULD REMAIN LIMITED TO 54 MEMBERS. EXPANDED SESSIONAL COMMITTEE APPROACH WAS IN FACT, DEvised AS MEANS OF MEETING G-77 DESIRE FOR PARTICIPATION WITHOUT VIOLATING OR REVISING CHARTER. THUS, AS WE READ PARA 1 OF REF B, U.S. DEL CAN SUPPORT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE'S APPROACH IN PARA 10 (ON OPEN-ENDED BASIS, WITH ADVANCE OF PARTICIPATION NOTICE) REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SESSIONAL COMMITTEES OPERATE ON CONSENSUS BASIS OR ALLOW POSSIBILITY OF VOTES.

2. DELEGATION WELCOMES THIS VIEW AS INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AMONG WEO'S (FRG AS EC-9 SPOKESMAN, CANADA) REVEAL VIEW THAT G-77 WOULD NEVER ACCEPT OUR PROPOSED CONSENSUS
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11000 171959Z

GAMBIT. TO THE CONTRARY, IN RESPONSE TO STATEMENT OF G-77 REP AT LAST MEETING THAT G-77 DECISIONS ON CONVERSION TO SOS (PARA 12, 15) DEPENDED ON ASSURANCES ON PARTICIPATION, WESTERN DELEGATIONS (INCLUDING EC-9, NEW ZEALAND, FINLAND, CANADA) ARE FOLLOWING IN LINE BEHIND PROPOSAL FOR OPEN-ENDED SESSIONAL COMMITTEES (LIMITED ONLY BY REQUIREMENT OF ADVANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE), WITH NO MENTION OF VOTING OR ABSENCE THEREOF. G-77 SEEMS WILLING TO CONSIDER THIS APPROACH AS ALTERNATIVE TO EXPANDING PARTICIPATION IN SOS TO A SPECIFIED MEMBER.

3. SHOULD U.S. INSIST ON CONSENSU APPROACH IN SESSIONAL COMMITTEES TO THE EXCLUSION OF ANY POSSIBILITY OF VOTING, WE RISK BEING ISOLATED WITH SOVIET BLOC ON PARAGRAPH 10. IF DEPARTMENT REQUIRES IT IN ORDER TO MEET RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED PARA 2 REF B, DELEGATION CAN INSURE THAT RECORD WILL SHOW THAT SESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF FUTURE SOS AS IN EVERY OTHER ECOSOC MEETING ARE CLEARLY LIMITED TO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO PLENARY.

4. PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY.

5. CORRECTIONS: PARA 1, LINE 11 "WITH ADVANCE NOTICE OF PARTICIPATION"
PARA 2, LINE 8 "FALLING IN LINE"
PARA 2, LAST LINE "TO A SPECIFIED NUMBER". VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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